



CEMP Part II Initial Response Operations

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A. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Initial response operations will be accomplished by city and county agencies, excluded city and town jurisdictions, volunteer agencies such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army, and segments of the private sector. During initial response operations, the field responders of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis will place emphasis on saving lives, property, and the environment, controlling the situation, and minimizing the effects of the emergency. The Incident Command System will be used to manage and control the response operations. The disaster event may be controlled solely by emergency responders or with other agencies through mutual aid or support agreements. If the resources available at the field response level are not sufficient to mitigate the situation, the Incident Commander may request that the Emergency Operations Center be activated to support the field operations.

B. ALERTING AND WARNING

Alerting and warning involves notifying emergency response personnel and the affected public. The Consolidated City of Indianapolis utilizes a number of ways to alert and activate its emergency response personnel. The Division of Homeland Security has the primary responsibility in alerting and warning the public, with assistance from the Joint Information Center and Public Information Emergency Support Function, as deemed necessary. Alerting and warning the public may be accomplished through the mass notification system, special media broadcasts, electronic bulletin boards, Division of Homeland Security's social media sites, published numbers for the Mayor's Action Center, or simply driving up and down the streets using the public address system.

C. FIELD RESPONSE

1. Introduction

When the Consolidated City of Indianapolis has jurisdiction over a multiple-agency incident, emergency responders will organize the field response using the Incident Command System (ICS). Additionally, the principles of ICS will be used even for those incidents that begin as a single discipline response (i.e., all fire or all law enforcement). Often, the single discipline incident expands to a multi-discipline incident, which demands the use of ICS. During multi-agency incidents in the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, field responders will use the principles of Unified Command to the greatest extent possible. The Unified Command structure refers to a unified team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage the incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies.

In order for ICS to be used at all incidents, the first emergency responder on scene who has single discipline management responsibility always will take the following basic actions:

- Establish the Incident Command Post (ICP)
- Evaluate the incident
- Determine the ICS organizational elements required
- Request additional resources necessary to mitigate the incident
- Delegate authority within the ICS organizational structure
- Develop the Incident Action Plan, incorporating the incident objectives and strategies



By taking these basic actions, the change from an individual response to a 25-250-person response involves no change in the management system. The built-in capability for modular development helps to shape the organization based on the functional needs of the incident.

2. Coordination with Excluded Cities and Towns, Special Districts, Private, and Volunteer Agencies in Initial Response Operations

The level of involvement of excluded cities and towns, special districts, public utilities, private organizations, and volunteer agencies will vary considerably depending upon the kind of incident. In general, excluded cities and towns, special districts or other agencies that have a statutory or jurisdictional responsibility with the incident should be represented at the incident. The form of involvement for these districts and agencies may be part of the Unified Command or as an Agency Representative who coordinates with the Consolidated City of Indianapolis. The emergency response role of the excluded cities and towns and special districts will be focused on their normal services and functional area of responsibility. Currently there are inter-local agreement discussions to address when an excluded city or town requests disaster assistance from the Consolidated City of Indianapolis. Once complete, those inter-local agreements could become appendices to the CEMP.

3. Coordination with Consolidated City of Indianapolis-Marion County EOC

The field response organization has a direct communications and reporting relationship with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). When the EOC is activated, the Incident Commander will coordinate directly with the EOC's Operations Section Chief, if the position has been established, or the EOC Manager.

Indianapolis-Marion County Communications (Police Dispatch) and Indianapolis Fire Communications (Fire Dispatch) will function in an intermediate role between the Incident Commander and the EOC's Operations Section Chief. Communications will have no command authority over field operations, but will serve as a conduit for communication. The EOC may give policy direction directly to the Incident Commander.

During disaster situations with multiple incidents occurring simultaneously within the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, the EOC may be activated at the discretion of the Division of the Homeland Security. Incident Commanders and the appropriate ICS structure will be established for each incident. Each Incident Commander will communicate and coordinate with the Operations Section Chief throughout the incident.

This section of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis CEMP is designed for field responders' initial response to emergencies, bridging the gap between a routine emergency and a disaster. Experience has shown that the outcome of many emergencies can be greatly affected by effective initial response actions.

Refer to Appendix A: Incident Specific Checklists